

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 MMS-01 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SAB-01 SAM-01

NIC-01 MC-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 /075 W

----- 010484

R 291007Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1808

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//

CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7//

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

S E C R E T KUWAIT 5484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: NAVY FOR KUWAIT

REFS: A) KUWAIT 4197 DTG 300433Z SEP 74 (PASEP)

B) SECDEF 7330 DTG 091838Z OCT 74 (PASEP)

C) KUWAIT 5112 DTG 301132Z NOV 74 (PASEP)

D) STATE 277997 DTG 191920Z DEC 74 (PASEP)

1. IN SPEECH TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 31 OCT AMIR STATED THAT KUWAIT HAD FORMED NUCLEUS OF A NAVY. ON ARMED FORCES DAY (9 DEC) MINDEF ALSO PUBLICLY STATED KUWAIT WAS FORMING A NAVY.

2. REF A REPORTED FIRST STATEMENT AND INTEREST OF GOK IN US AID IN FORMING NAVY AND IN ACQUIRING MISSILE EQUIPPED PATROL CRAFT.

3. REF B ADVISED THAT KUWAIT AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE INVITED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH USN IN WASHDC.

4. REF C REPORTED FURTHER KUWAITI INTEREST IN US FAST PATROL CRAFT AND REQUEST FOR HARPOON (AGM-84).

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5. REF D REITERATED THAT KUWAIT AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE INVITED TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS WITH USN IN WASHDC.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN REFS B AND D HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BY DOD REP WITH CINC KUWAIT ARMED FORCES, MGEN SHAIKH MUBARAK. LITTLE RESPONSE OBTAINED UNTIL MEETING ON 14 DEC WHEN MGEN MUBARAK STATED HE WAS "DISAPPOINTED WITH US NAVY RESPONSE" BASED ON EXPECTATIONS GENERATED IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ADM MOORER DURING APRIL OF THIS YEAR. (EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD OF WHAT WAS SAID DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS.)

7. THE CURRENT PERSONNEL STATUS OF THE KUWAIT NAVY IS:

1 CDR (SECONDED UK OFFICER)

1 LCDR (LINE) SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER

2 IN OFFICER (ENGINEERING)

10 CADETS

15 CADETS TO BE DRAWN FROM CLASS GRADUATING 25 JAN 75.

THE LCDR HAS BEEN ATTENDING VARIOUS RN SCHOOLS IN THE UK AND WILL START THE UK NAVAL STAFF COURSE IN JAN 75. (HE CURRENTLY ON BRIEF LEAVE IN KUWAIT.) BOTH ENGINEERING OFFICERS ARE IN TRAINING IN THE UK. NO PLANS APPEAR TO EXIST TO DRAW ON COAST GUARD PERSONNEL. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, IT APPEARS TO US THAT FURTHER RECOMMENDATION BY EMBASSY TO GOK TO SEND KUWAITI NAVY PERSONNEL TO WASH TO DISCUSS FORMING A NAVY IS NOT ONLY FUTILE, BUT COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE DUE TO:

A. GEN MUBARAK'S PERCEPTION OF PREVIOUS USN RESPONSE;

B. THE LACK OF ANY FIRM DECISION BY USG TO ASSIST; AND

C. THE LACK OF SUITABLE GOK PERSONNEL TO SEND ON MISSION.

9. BEST INFORMATION LOCALLY AVAILABLE INDICATES GOK IS ACTIVELY SURVEYING WORLD MARKET FOR SUITABLE CRAFT AND EQUIPMENT FOR ITS NAVY AND THAT NO COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PURCHASE OF FRENCH-DSIGNED SAAR CRAFT IS FOR COAST GUARD.)

10. WHILE KUWAITIS ARE (VERY) WEAK IN STAFF WORK, THEIR (UK) NAVAL ADVISOR HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO EDUCATE GOK ON REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING, YARDS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. HE ALSO HAS
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STATED THAT THE UK "SIMPLY CANNOT PROVIDE" GOK WITH ASSISTANCE NEEDED TO GET STARTED. WHILE THIS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF UK POSITION, IT APPEARS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH STATED UK POLICY OF WITHDRAWING ITS MILITARY PRESENCE FROM EAST OF SUEZ.

11. DECLINE OF US SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY IS OF CONCERN TO OUR MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR STRATEGIC INDUSTRIAL MOBILIZATION

CONSIDERATIONS. PRODUCTION OF EVEN A FEW HIGH TECHNOLOGY CRAFT OF KIND SOUGHT BY GOK COULD BENEFIT THE US ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS (EMPLOYMENT, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS) AS WELL AS ASSIST IN MAINTAINING THE CAPABILITY TO BUILD SHIPS AS PART OF OUR STRATEGIC INDUSTRIAL MOBILIZATION BASE. SINCE IT APPEARS CERTAIN THAT KUWAIT IS IRREVOCABLY COMMITTED TO FORMING A NAVY, I SUGGEST THAT THE USG REAP SUCH BENEFITS AS IT CAN FROM SITUATIONS.

12. RECOMMEND THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THE GOK:

A. THAT THE USG IS WILLING, IN PRINCIPLE, TO ASSIST AT GOK EXPENSE IN ESTABLISHING A NAVY, INCLUDING PROVIDING MISSILE EQUIPPED, FAST PATROL CRAFT AS PART OF AN OVERALL PROGRAM.

B. THAT THE USG RECOMMENDS A JOINT USG-GOK TEAM BE FORMED TO DEFINE THE ORGANIZATION, MANNING, FACILITIES AND TRAINING REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE FORCE THE GOK DESIRES AND THE WE ARE WILLING TO SEND A SMALL USN TEAM TO KUWAIT AT USG EXPENSE FOR INITIAL DISCUSSIONS. (WE SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS OF GETTING ANY SIGNIFICANT GOK HELP. THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF KUWAITI PARTICIPATION ARE EDUCATION AND, ABOVE ALL, ACCEPTANCE BY THE KUWAITIS THAT THE RESULT IS THEIR SOLUTION, NOT JUST ANOTHER STUDY BY OUTSIDE EXPERTS.)

13. USCINCEUR'S COMMENTS ON MILITARY ASPECTS OF THIS MATTER ARE SOLICITED.
STOLTZFUS

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NNN

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